

**Friis, John**

---

**From:** Jason Chuong [jaychuong@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 7:40 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Cc:** eca\_pace@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

Hello,

I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

I attended ECA for only one year in high school, and it was an extremely beneficial experience. Had I known that a program like ECA existed, I would have attended the school earlier in high school. Not only does ECA teach about the "Arts", it also helps students develop practical skills that are essential to function effectively in society after graduation. The cohesiveness of the school allows for students to partake in original collaborations that occur between the different art fields. In turn, students develop communication/ team-building skills, confidence, self-respect, and other skills that are directly applicable outside the classroom.

ECA is not any ordinary school that teaches about the arts. Rather, it is a community of individual artists that function together to influence, inspire, and create works in the arts. The instructors are the experts in the field that play a huge role in cultivating a sense of self-actualization in the students. Although they may not be state certified, they possess the experience and wisdom in the field that they are teaching about, which according to music education philosophers like David Elliot ("Music Matters") and Estelle Jorgensen ("Transforming Music Education"), may be more valuable than the certification itself.

ECA has been a huge influence on my personal and musical development, as it has for many other students. Any action toward keeping the school open and the teachers employed will be a huge benefit toward arts education.

Thanks,

Jason Chuong  
Bachelor of Music in Jazz Drumset Performance '08  
Master of Arts in Teaching (May '09)  
University of the Arts  
Philadelphia, PA